

Amateurs in Action

Recounts of ham radio operators who have used their effort and skills to help others in a time of need



New Hampshire mountain rescue

On 04 December 2022, Nick Lang KC1OTX of Plaistow and his friend Ben were driving around Pittsburgh, in northern New Hampshire, a place they'd been many times. *When we got there, the conditions were snowy, but not icy.* Nick is an emergency response volunteer and a licensed ham. Once out on a remote road, however, the roads became very slick. *As soon as the traction control kicked on, that's when I decided it was time to turn around. And when I turned around is when everything kinda went wrong,* Nick said, *we spun three complete times.*



Ben, left, and Nick Lang KC1OTX

Hanging over an embankment, Nick couldn't open his door. Ben got out and secured the car with ropes so it wouldn't slide further.

He was cranking on the rope when the hook snapped and...smashed into his kneecap. There they were, Ben was injured, the vehicle was stuck, and no cell service. Nick climbed to higher ground with his AnyTone HT ham radio and called for help on the nearest known repeater, about 60 miles away on Mt. Washington (he thought they were only 30 miles away).



Derek Flint KC1QXL

Derek Flint KC1QXL had his radio on, monitoring the Mt. Washington repeater, when he heard the call for help from his Vermont home, some 54 miles from the repeater. *This is KC1QXL. I'm here. There's still no audio.* Derek is visually impaired, and is a new ham by only a few months. Yet, now he was thrown into a radio-driven rescue. *I heard something, but I couldn't quite copy.*

It was obvious that the stranded motorists could hear Derek, but that Derek had a very difficult time hearing them. So, Derek said he's going to ask some questions, and they should answer with one kerchunk for Yes and nothing for No. With that, Derek began gathering information about their location and their welfare.

Another ham, Roger Marcoux K1DFA was listening to the same repeater from his home in Bartlett, New Hampshire, and jumped on to help. Roger was trying to determine where the stranded travelers were, by listening for clues from the difficult transmissions and the kerchunks. Once he could make out the location, Roger called 911, and help was on the way.



Roger Marcoux K1DFA

After more than three hours, they finally heard reports of the rescue crew arriving at the slide-off site. *Thank you. Thank you for saving my life today.* Nick said he was really glad that he packed his radio at the last minute before leaving on their trip.

You can read more about their adventure on [the WMUR page](#) and see a video of it [on YouTube](#).